

flüchtlingsrat hamburg

Offenes Plenum für antirassistische Arbeit

Flüchtlingsrat Hamburg e.V.

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Bürozeiten: Di und Do 10.00 – 12.00 | 17.00 – 19.00

Dear Mr. Hanssen,

Since Norway is a country valued for its high respect to human rights, with surprise we have been informed that the Norwegian government, Afghan government and UNHCR, have recently signed an agreement to send back Afghanistan refugees, and the Norwegian government declared that if Afghan refugees do not return to their country voluntarily until 26 of May 2006 the Norwegian police will deport them by direct flight. It is quite well known that Afghanistan does not have a political stability, nor an established human and civil rights respect, e.g. respect for the freedom of thought, for political or religious diversity, or for the freedom of women. It is clear that many people are threatened of persecution there.

Furthermore, Afghanistan is not a safe country, since there is an ongoing war countrywide and every day many people lose their lives. After the recent events and the violence prevailing in Kabul, many international organizations have reduced their activities in the country. It is not only the attacks to Action Aid members, by continuous reports that confirm the insecurity and the deterioration of the human conditions within Afghanistan. The German Caritas in a press conference proposed to close their offices in Kabul and asked from European governments to stop deporting refugees from Europe to Afghanistan. Within this framework, the demonstration and later the hunger strike of the Afghan refugees, which started on May 27, their determination that the return to Afghanistan is certain death, their unwillingness to follow the IOM project for volunteering repatriation, seem to be reasonable actions of people who struggle for their life and dignity. A very logical question comes naturally from the mouth of refugees "If the situation in Norway was like Afghanistan, would you then call it a country of peace, democracy and security? "

Instead of that, it is a cynical joke to hear that the Norwegian government threatens to violently put an end to this protest, with the excuse of bad sanitary conditions among the hunger-strikers. It is a scandalous policy towards people who struggle for their life, and their wish is to find a safe place to live on this planet .

Therefore, as people who respect life, we demand Norwegian government to stop the project for deportation of afghan refugees, supply them with residence permit and allow them to live safely and with dignity.

Regards

Refugee Council Hamburg, Germany

Dr. Franz Forsmann